

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Minutes - Thursday, November 18, 2010

The meeting was held at Town Hall and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Chairperson Tom Ragonese, Carmelo Amoddio, Kevin Rogers, John Rascius and Dan Silbo. Also present was Michael Hurley, Town Council Liaison and Kathleen Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – October 28, 2010.

Dan Silbo moved to approve the minutes of October 28, 2010. The motion was seconded by John Rascius and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – October 2010.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members. Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley about the Nature Center's Haunted Pumpkin Patch. The Haunted Pumpkin Patch had more visitors this year than in the past. Mr. Rascius commented on the success of the Keane Carnival and the UNICO Soccer Tournament. He noted that the High School Soccer coaches and players held a clinic for soccer players at this tournament.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Santa's Pancake Breakfast – Community Center, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to noon
2. Carol Sing and Tree Lighting Ceremony – Solomon Welles House, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

E. Old Business.

1. Cottone Field Fundraising Campaign.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the fundraising committee is working on a report to present to the Town Council regarding funding to date and a plan to install the lights. At the October 22<sup>nd</sup> night football game, the committee raised \$14,000 in pledges from 130 families in town. The committee is fundraising earnestly for this project and is tentatively scheduled to attend the December 6<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting. Councilor Hurley reported that AT&T will be installing one of their boxes near the high school and this installation will provide conduits needed for the lights. The town will save approximately \$19,000 because of this installation. The committee has been contacting the High School booster groups and individuals to solicit donations.

2. Mill Woods Parking Lot Expansion.

Ms. Bagley reported that the design was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The next step is the final review by the Tree Commission. Hopefully some construction of the expanded parking area can be completed over the winter if the weather cooperates. The plan is to have the expanded portion of the lot ready for the spring 2011 season.

3. Harbor Management Commission.

The Town Manager has been reviewing the Board's request to appoint them as the Harbor Management Commission. He has requested some additional information from the staff including a copy of a Harbor Management Plan and the state statutes that authorize this commission. Staff will be preparing this information for his review.

4. Cove Docks Permit Process with Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The consultant is compiling all the information required by the State for this permitting process. Some information needed a scuba diving team to inspect the bottom of the Cove where the boat launch ramp and new docks are planned. This work has been done and the town will be receiving a report on the condition of the bottom.

F. New Business.

1. Willard Pool Filter Tanks.

Ms. Bagley gave Board members a report on the condition of these filter tanks. Three filter tanks are used for the diving pool and instructional pool. At the end of the pool season, it was discovered that one of the filter tanks was leaking water at the top of the tank. An ultra sound test was performed on all the tanks because they were installed at the same time. The tanks life expectancy is 10-15 years and these tanks are 24 years old. The ultra sound noted that the tank that is leaking has failed and the other two tanks have similar wall thicknesses. These two tanks could last another season or may not. A consultant has been hired to develop bid specifications for the tank replacements. The bid will ask for a cost to replace one tank or all three tanks. The estimated price for all three tanks to be replaced is \$60,000 to \$80,000. The consultant noted that it might be a cost saving to replace all the tanks at once. He also thought the town might get a good competitive bid on these tanks. The replacement tanks have a fabrication time of 6 to 8 weeks. The plan is to go out to bid in January and get a cost estimate for the tank replacement. Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to keep Board members posted on this project.

2. Webb Playscape.

Mr. Silbo asked Ms. Bagley to get some information on Webb playscape project. She is aware the school is fundraising to expand their playscape, but has not seen any plans yet.

3. Highcrest Soccer Fields.

Mr. Silbo discussed the conditions of the youth soccer fields at Highcrest School. He asked if they could be looked at to improve them. At this time of year there is not much grass and the fields are muddy. Ms. Bagley noted the fields get a lot of use and are over seeded at the end of the season. She will talk to the maintenance staff to discuss ways to improve the field conditions.

4. Land Review By a Sub Committee of the Town Council.

Chairperson Tom Ragonese asked about the status of this review. At our last meeting, the Town Council subcommittee was looking into the possibility of selling some town land including two park areas, Colonel Chester Park (Crest Street) and Savage Park (Silas Deane Highway). At this time, the subcommittee is starting the process of reviewing one parcel of land for possible sale, Savage Park, located on the Silas Deane Highway adjacent to Corpus Christi.

5. Improvements to Baseball Fields.

Ms. Bagley reported that the parks maintenance staff have completed the improvements to Stillman Baseball Field. The infield was regraded and the outfield lip was removed. New material was added to the field and sod was installed. This field will be ready for the spring season. The fields improved this year include Greenfield Softball Field, Webb Baseball Field, High School Baseball Field and Stillman Baseball Field. All of the town's three baseball fields have now been improved.

G. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Dan Silbo and seconded by Carmelo Amoddio to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department